

COLORADANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Coloradans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Colorado. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Colorado.

INCOME: COLORADANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Colorado was \$55,559.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Colorado was \$51,518, a significant drop of 7.3 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN COLORADO HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Colorado had 583,000 adults without insurance (13.8 percent).³
- In 2005, Colorado had 788,000 adults without insurance (17 percent).⁴
- Colorado had 59,530 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN COLORADO

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Colorado was \$8,360.⁶ In 2005, it was \$10,243, a 23 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Colorado was \$23,599.⁸ In 2005, it was \$27,361, a 16 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Coloradans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 73,680.¹⁰
- Number of Coloradans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 50,618.¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Colorado was \$1.447 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Colorado is \$2.6190 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Colorado was \$1,940.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Colorado is \$3,606, \$1,666 (85.9 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: COLORADANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Colorado – 571,470.¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Colorado – \$864.¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: COLORADANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Coloradans killed in Iraq – 36¹⁸
- Number of Coloradans wounded in Iraq – 331¹⁹
- Number of Coloradans killed in Afghanistan – 5²⁰
- Number of Coloradans wounded in Afghanistan – 17²¹
- Number of Veterans in Colorado – 427,956²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING COLORADO'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 251 estates in Colorado paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 70 estates in Colorado will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 85,000 workers in Colorado would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN COLORADO IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes in Colorado per 100,000 residents in 2000 – 334.0²⁶
- Number of Violent Crimes in Colorado per 100,000 residents in 2005 – 396.5²⁷
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 6,436,252²⁸
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 657,404²⁹

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST COLORADANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Coloradans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Colorado residents each received an average of \$2,996 in tax cuts, while middle class Colorado residents received only \$405.³⁰
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Colorado residents will receive an average of \$42,879 in tax cuts, while middle class Colorado residents will only receive \$702.³¹
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Colorado residents will each receive an average of \$81,453 in tax cuts, while middle class Colorado residents will only receive \$804.³²

The richest Coloradans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Coloradans received 6.9 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 17.8 percent of the tax cut.³³
- But, in 2006, the richest Coloradans will get 28.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 8.6 percent of the tax cut.³⁴
- And, in 2010, the richest Coloradans will get 47 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 8.0 percent of the tax cut.³⁵

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Coloradans.

- In 2010, the richest Coloradans will receive an average of \$16,271 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Coloradans will be getting 52 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁶
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Coloradans will receive an average of \$87 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 5.2 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁷

SOURCES

- 1: US Census Bureau
- 2: US Census Bureau
- 3: US Census Bureau, *Health Insurance Coverage: 2001*.
[\[http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin01/hi01tb2.html\]](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin01/hi01tb2.html)
- 4: Bureau of Labor Statistics / Bureau of the Census *Current Population Survey*, 3/06.
[\[http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/health/h06_000.htm\]](http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/health/h06_000.htm)
- 5: Congressional Research Service, *SCHIP: A Brief Overview*, 9/21/06.
- 6: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 7: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 8: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 9: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 10: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 11: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 12: Federal Highway Administration [<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/mmfr/jan01/mfr50101.htm>]
- 13: *Fuel Gauge Report*, 9/25/06
- 14: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 15: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 16: Social Security Online, *Geographic Statistics Fact Sheets*, 1/06.
[\[http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.htm\]](http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.htm)
- 17: Social Security Online, *Geographic Statistics Fact Sheets*, 1/06.
[\[http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.htm\]](http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.htm)
- 18: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 19: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 20: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 21: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 22: House Democratic Leader. [<http://www.democraticleader.house.gov/NDResources/numvets.doc>]

- 23: Center for Budget Priorities, Latest Data on Minimum Wage Workers and Taxable Estates, by State, 8/4/06. [<http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm>]
- 24: United for a Fair Economy [www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html]. This estimate is based upon current law where the estate tax threshold is slated to rise to 3.5 million in 2009.
- 25: Center for Budget Priorities, Latest Data on Minimum Wage Workers and Taxable Estates, by State, 8/4/06. [<http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm>]
- 26: Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics.
[<http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/State/StatebyState.cfm%20>]
- 27: FBI, Crime in the US 2005. [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_05.html]
- 28: Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Sum of Awards made by State*, generated 9/27/06.
- 29: Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Sum of Awards made by State*, generated 9/27/06.
- 30: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 31: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 32: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 33: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 34: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 35: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 36: Citizens for Tax Justice, 11/18/05. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]
- 37: Citizens for Tax Justice, 11/18/05 Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.
[<http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbddata.pdf>]